The Council met at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 17th day of March 1922, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Premature retirement of officers due to Reforms.

1373 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad : With reference to the answer given to question No. 1262 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 15th February 1922 regarding the premature retirement of I.C.S. officers, will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to say how and by whom the Government were precluded from giving the information asked for ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the India Office communiqué which appeared in the newspapers on the 13th March.

Election expenses of Members of Councils.

1374 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether all the candidates who contested seats to the Madras Legislative Council and to the Council of State and Legislative Assembly from Madras have lodged returns of their election expenses under the rules governing elections and, if any have failed to do so, what action has been taken against them ?

A.—All the candidates except one lodged returns of their election expenses under the rules governing elections, but the return lodged by one of them was not in the prescribed form. The candidate who failed to lodge his return of election expenses and the candidate whose return of election expenses was not in proper form, both incurred the disqualification mentioned in rule 5 (4) of the Electoral Rules and this fact was duly notified in the Gazette.

The Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council.

1375 *Q.*—The Raja of Ramnad : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the absence of the Deputy President of the Legislative Council, Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, who is on deputation to British Guiana for a period of more than six months, is permissible under the rules, whether he continues to be Deputy President, whether he draws pay for the period of his absence, and, if it is not permissible, why no action has been taken to fill up the vacancy ?

A.—His Excellency the Governor has condoned the absence of Diwan Bahadur M.R.Ry. P. Kesava Pillai from Madras and Mr. Kesava Pillai continues as Deputy President and draws pay as such. What the rules are the hon. Member is referring to is not clear.